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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR THE PRESS

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Following is the text of a statement issued by the Department of State on April 15:

The statement which the Department of State made on April 9, 1963 said, in part, that we shared with Dr. Miro Cardona, "the aim of restoring freedom to the Cuban people".

That continues to be the aim and purpose of the United States. Let there be no doubt on that central point.

Now, a statement has been published purporting to be the reasons given by Dr. Miro Cardona for his decision to resign as Chairman of the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

The statement seeks to discredit several individuals in the Government and to question the good faith and integrity of them, as individuals, and of the United States Government in dealing with the Cuban Revolutionary Council. While appreciating the urgent desire of the Cuban exiles to return to a free and independent Cuba at the earliest possible date -- a desire which is fully shared by the people and the Government of the United States -- the Department considers this statement a gross distortion of recent history and of this Government's policy with respect to the elimination of Castro-Communism from this Hemisphere.

The statement of Dr. Miro Cardona as it relates to conversations with the President and others in the Government is highly inaccurate and distorted.

The Government is in possession of memoranda of conversations detailing the discussions between the President and other United States officials and Dr. Cardona on all occasions and a review of these memoranda of conversations indicate that Dr. Cardona's recollection of the events does not coincide with the record of the talks as made at the time they took place.

The United States Government, under existing conditions, is not prepared to enter into "alliances" or undertakings that would essentially give exile leaders authority to determine United States policies and plans regarding Cuba, or, that would promise at least fifty million dollars to permit exile leaders to recruit an army and wage a war, the unforeseeable consequences of which would almost certainly have to be borne ultimately by United States armed forces, or that would engage the United States now to wage a war. All of these commitments were demanded by Dr. Miro Cardona.

The United States cannot co-exist with a Soviet satellite in this Hemisphere. This does not mean we can permit publicized expeditions which which have no tangible effect on the future status of Cuba, which are in clear violation of United States law and which are followed by highly colored press conferences.

The Department will wish to continue consulting with leaders of the Cuban exile community concerning suitable methods for achieving our common objectives. In determining these methods, policies of the Government in the field of foreign affairs, particularly those which carry the risk of war, will continue to be determined by the Government and the people of the United States.